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## Newsletter

### Number 17

### 25 June 2010



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

#### Thanks

..To parents for your support and encouragement this term. A special thanks to those parents who take the time to acknowledge the efforts of staff. There are many of you who do this and your words and acts of appreciation mean a great deal to staff.

..To McKay Electrical for cleaning the guttering along the Hall and for replacing switches on our ovens.

..Those who have booked for parent / teacher interviews.

..Those who helped out at this week's Rippa Rugby Tournament.

..To those parents who consistently reduce vehicle speed when passing the school and who demonstrate courtesy and patience in our upper carpark.

#### People of the week

.. Mr Delemare, Mrs Donaldson and Mrs Williams for your dedication and commitment during the build up to our school Science Fair.

.. Students who have worked on these projects over the preceding months (and especially parents who have helped out this past week).

.. Those students who have worked diligently to attain their goals this term.

..Caitlin for receiving "Player of the Day" for Hikurangi D Grade Hockey.

.. Kendall for receiving "Player of the Day" on Saturday for Matarau Intermediate Netball team.

..Sophie for receiving "Player of the Day" last week for Matarau Intermediate Netball team.

..Well done to Matarau Intermediate Netball girls for winning the preliminary round for Section 3 and advancing to Section 2.

.. In advance .. recipients of next week's virtues (Commitment) awards. We hope your parents are as proud of you as we are.

#### Coming up

.. 28 / 29 June - Parent / Teacher interviews

.. 29 June - Science Fair prize giving

.. 30 June - Senior Rock Climbing Day (Taurikura)

.. 2 July - Final day of term 2

.. 19 July - First day of term 3

**think... SOLD!**

think yellow,  
think...

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### Science Fair

Remember that you are especially invited to wander through the hall on the evenings of 28 and 29 June to view our science exhibits on the way to and from parent interviews. Please feel free to complete some of the information search activities with your children and to provide feedback on the forms provided. Science Fair prize giving will be held at 7:00 PM on 29 June. **All children receiving awards (they will know at the end of the previous week) are asked to be in attendance.**

***A special thanks to Heatpump Professionals who are sponsors of this year's fair.***



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### Late arrivals

.. we suggest children arrive at LEAST 10 minutes before 9:00 AM bell. Please let us know if we can help.

### Let's lend Mr Donaldson a hand

You may know that James Donaldson (Mrs Donaldson's husband) is competing in the grand finals of the National Bank Young Farmers Competition in Gore in the first week of the school holidays. If you would like to send James a message of support visit [www.goyoungfarmer.co.nz](http://www.goyoungfarmer.co.nz). The person who gets the most messages wins \$1,500 for their local Young Farmers Club. **GO JAMES!!**

### School Photos - 28 July 2010

Photo information sheets were sent home last week. If you would like to order a class, individual, family or team photo please complete and return, with money, before the end of next week (although we can still receive orders and money early next term). Family photos will be taken from 8:30 am on the morning of 28 July and so, if you would like a family photo please phone Helen next week to book a slot. Thanks.

### Focus on the Innovation Class

Remember to drop by the office to view artworks produced by our Innovation Class.

### Portfolios

If you have not managed to do this yet please ..

- .. **sit down WITH your child** to share their portfolio- a special time and place free from distraction
- .. **celebrate what they do well** (especially ask them to walk you through their boast section - this is where they have included work they are particularly proud of)
- .. **take particular notice of progress** and praise them for this
- .. quietly **note down any questions or areas of concern** for later discussion with their teacher
- .. most of all, be positive, celebrate the gains and **have fun!**

### Parent / Teacher Interviews - 28/29 June

The intention of mid-year interviews is to discuss portfolios (**please remember to bring these with you**), to present and discuss achievement information, to review progress and to set targets moving forward. Mid year Data Reports will also be presented to you at interviews with any necessary explanations - you can then take these away with you. Interview slots are very tight and so please help by ..

- .. being on time and **MOVING ON THE BELL**
- .. moving quickly between interviews
- .. bringing portfolios and Learner Journey Sheets with you
- .. making an alternative appointment to discuss matters not directly related to your child's progress and achievement.

We have a great deal of information to share and the purpose of these interviews is to give you a very clear picture of how your child is performing and what their next step(s) might be.

If you are unable to make the interview nights of 28 and 29 June please contact your child's teacher for an alternative time.

### Data Reports

As advised these will be presented, and briefly discussed, at mid year interviews. Please note that parents of year 1 and 2 students will not receive data reports for these students.

### Early Buses

A reminder that school finishes at 2:30 pm on 28 and 29 June with buses running around 30-40 minutes earlier than normal. Parents who pick their children up from school are asked to do this please at this earlier time. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by these slightly early closures.

### My Learner Journey

At the front of your child's portfolio you will find your child's Learner Journey Sheet. **Before interviews** could you please discuss these goals with your child and (in the column titled "By the end of year I will ..") **pencil in** the next step they might take in pursuit of this goal. Often goals need to be modified, or new goals set, and so this is the opportunity for this. In some cases you will find that your child has already pencilled in some thoughts - where this is the case, please feel free to make additions to the sheet. If needing ideas, or support, please contact us in the week before interviews.

### School Cross Country

School cross-country is customarily held some time in term 3. This year it will be held earlier in the term (possibly around week 3) in order to make way for school production later in the term. We thought our serious runners might like to begin their preparations over the holiday period. More to follow.

### Shine programme - year 7 and 8 girls

Please phone Vikki next week (4354461) if you would like your daughter to participate in this programme. Vikki needs to know numbers soon to see if there is enough interest to proceed. Vikki is happy to answer any questions.

### Pubertal Change Resource booklet - year 6 children

Year 6 children will receive these booklets next week.

### International Schools English and Maths Exams

The first maths practice papers were handed out this week. Candidates have been asked to negotiate with their teachers if homework loads are too heavy - it is possible for these practice papers to stand in lieu of other homework. Let us know if you need any help. Children in both of these competitions will receive 2 practice papers (each competition) for completion over the holiday period - let them know if you would like them to have more than 2 practice papers.

A reminder other test dates are as follows .. English 3 August .. Maths 17 August.

### Children remaining at school after bell

Most urban schools ask for pick up of children within the first 10 / 15 minutes of final bell. As a country school we feel it is important for children to connect with their friends briefly after school, and so allow them to remain at school until around 3:25 (departure time for the third and fourth buses). **Please note that children remaining at school after 3:25 should be placed in After School Care unless they are travelling into town on the final (fifth) bus.** The ASC programme has a special rate for users from 3:00 to 4:00 and so this is an ideal opportunity to have homework completed before they get home. Please book in to this programme by phoning 0278461724 if you know your children are at school after 3:25 - this way they will be properly supervised and gainfully employed.

### **SKIDS School Holiday Program**

If you are planning to book your children into our fun filled School Holiday Program you need to be quick! Please complete the application form/flyer that came home with last week's newsletter or collect one from the School Office.



Alternatively email [matarau@skids.co.nz](mailto:matarau@skids.co.nz) to receive one electronically. This is child focused daily childcare from 5<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July 8am-6pm with short day or half day options. CYFS approved and WINZ subsidies available conditions apply.

See flyer for more details or call Marcelle 0278461724

### **Lost Property**

With the end of term fast approaching it might be timely for you to have a look through the lost property bin (outside Room 10) when next passing the school. Unclaimed items will be given to charities at the end of the term.

### **School contributions / activity fees / tech fees**

A number of parents owe money for the above. Out of fairness to other families the Board requests that you pay any fees owing for term 2 by the end of term or to see Kevin if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements. If you are not sure whether or not you owe money please give Helen a call on Monday.

### **Out of zone enrolments**

The school is receiving a number of enquiries about the procedures for out of zone enrolments for 2011. In mid-September the Board will advertise (Northern Advocate) the number of available places at each level of the school and invite expressions of interest. From this point expressions of interest will be registered for ballots to take place on 20 October. For more information on the balloting process, and for a zone description, please visit our website [www.mataru.school.nz](http://www.mataru.school.nz)

If you know any families interested in an out of zone enrolment please ask them to contact our school office for an application form.

### **Out of zone Year 7 and 8 students**

A specified number of places will be reserved in 2011 for year 7 and 8 students.

We think we offer something unique for year 7 and 8 students and are keen to hear from parents of potential students. We know from data, from secondary schools, and from reliable independent feedback, that our year 7 and 8 programme offers an exceptional and unique preparation for secondary school. Teachers in these classes are a reference point for colleagues in so many areas of expertise and provide comprehensive programmes built on the things that are known to make a long term difference to educational outcomes. Why pay for a private school when you can have all this paid for with your tax dollars. So .. please pass the news on to any friends with up and coming year 7 or 8s. Our year 7 and 8 programme has been one of the best kept secrets in town. Happy to meet parents and answer any questions.

### **Farewell and thanks**

.. to Mrs Slykerman who has taught music and drama in our senior school this year and is taking leave soon to have her third child. Thanks Mrs Slykerman for all of your hard work.

### **Found**

A big purple scarf has been left in the junior book room. Does it belong to any parent helper?

## **Community Notices**

To Rent - 3 bedroom house, Kamo area \$260, 0272737059

For Sale - Shed-dry firewood for sale - old pine. Pickup \$50 Tel 4338185.

For Sale - Black Labrador (pure) puppies, phone Yvette 4591240.

Wanted - Any unwanted pet ewe lamb's or ewes to go to a wonderful home. Ph Neroli 4338185.

Northland Youth Theatre Holiday Programme - For theatrical kids 5-12 yrs old, 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> July, 9-4 Monday-Friday phone 4384453 or email [coordinator@nyt.org.nz](mailto:coordinator@nyt.org.nz).

Hockey Holiday Program - Hockey Northland running its popular holiday hockey program in the first week of July School Holidays. For more info contact Bevan Gibbs 09 43738380.

Lighthouse Ultimate Car Rally - 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 5.45pm to 8pm. For 9-13 year olds. For more info contact Jennie Clarke 4353890 or Liz Gardiner 021325671

Farm Garage Sale - Moving overseas. From farm and garden tools to kitchen allsorts. Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 75 Miro Rd, Ruatangata, 10am to 3pm.

## **New buildings**

We are pleased to say that construction of our new junior block will begin shortly - we hope for completion by early term 4. This will be welcome news to junior teachers and students who have crammed into the library and uncomplainingly endured the long trek to toilets, running water etc. The new block will include three brand new classrooms, three special purpose offices, a new toilet block and a customised wet area. A little down the track an upgrade of the administration area will provide further much needed spaces.

## **Construction and the upper carpark**

Further congestion in the upper carpark is to be anticipated during the above construction period. To help, parents are asked ..

.. to use the lower bus bay for drop off and pickup where possible

And when using the upper carpark ..

.. to pull to the side and move off quickly (but safely) after drop off

.. to pick up at 5 or 10 minutes past 3 if you do not have any junior children

.. to exercise courtesy and patience when waiting.

## **Final thought**

This week I would like to pay tribute to our senior school (students and teachers) for their conscientious efforts in the run up to Science Fair. I have sat in on classes and have been mightily impressed with the quality of teaching programmes and with the application of students. It is usual in many schools for students to be left alone to complete their projects and for these to be done mainly at home. Our teachers have assisted every step of the way ensuring guidance and instruction for every student. Well done Mr D, Mrs Williams and Mrs Donaldson.

Finally, thanks for your support this term. - we have awesome parents (and kids) and we know this. Have a safe holiday with some quality time with the kids. See you next term! (no newsletter next week).

Regards

Kevin Trewhella  
PRINCIPAL

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Michele Blagrove, Sales Consultant  
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One Week to go - Don't miss out - Tickets selling fast

**School Ball – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, School Hall, 7.00pm**  
**Tickets available from the office, starting to sell fast.**  
**\$30 single, \$60 double. Don't miss Kamel**